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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,537	02/26/2002	Manuel Martin Sanchez	BARDP0117US	6352

7590

05/20/2003

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EXAMINER

KIM, CHONG HWA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,537

Applicant(s)

SANCHEZ ET AL.

Examiner

Chong H. Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 5-10 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim 4. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 5-10 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Petruccello, U.S. Patent 5,220,832.

Petruccello shows, in Figs. 1-10, a connecting element 10 for the releasable connecting of a first part 24 with a second part (dotted element in Fig. 10), in particular a Bowden cable with a lever, comprising;

a housing 30-36 which is rigidly attached to the first part;

an engaging element (dotted element in Fig. 10 having a spherical shape) attached to the second part;

a slide 70 with a receiving element 98 complementary shaped to the engaging element for the releasable connecting of the engaging element with the receiving element, where the slide

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can slide inside the housing from a first position (Fig. 2) into a second position (Fig. 3) for latching the releasable connection between the engaging element and the receiving element;

at least one latching means 94 for fixing the slide in the second position;

at least one releasing means 96 for manually acting onto the at least one latching means to release the slide from the second position for unlatching the releasable connection between the engaging element and the receiving element;

wherein two snapping hooks 94 are provided as the latching means and one release lever 96 as the release means; and

wherein the at least one release lever is provided as two extensions of the two snapping hooks extending over the edge of the housing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4/1-4/3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petruccello.

Petruccello shows, as discussed above in the rejections of claims 1-3, the connecting element comprising the slide that slides along an inner surface extending through the housing but fails to show a separate bushing between the slide and the housing.

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It would have been obvious to modify the housing of Petruccello by having a separate bushing disposed between the slide and the housing, since such a modification would have involved making the bushing integral or separable to the housing. A making integral or separable is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Lindberg*, 93 USPQ 23; *In re Larson et al.*, 144 USPQ 347; *In re Dulberg*, 129 USPQ 348; *In re Seevens*, 101 USPQ 284.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Manually releasable cable connectors.

Tan et al., U.S. Patent 5,749,746

Yanagida et al., U.S. Patent 6,099,339

Frye, U.S. Patent 6,109,132

Moore, U.S. Patent 5,398,566

Irish et al., U.S. Patent 5,709,132

Kelley et al., U.S. Patent 5,682,797

Wild, U.S. Patent 5,584,212

Malone, U.S. Patent 5,685,199

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chong H. Kim whose telephone number is (703) 305-0922. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday; 9:00 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

chk
May 15, 2003


CHONG H. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER